

"Dealing with and responding to intimidation"

John 9

"One Sabbath Jesus was going through the grainfields, and his disciples began to pick some heads of grain, rub them in their hands and eat the kernels. Some of the Pharisees asked, "Why are you doing what is unlawful on the Sabbath?" Luke 6:1, 2

Principle: Intimidation is never of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you." Matthew 5:10-12.

Law of life: The more positive you are, the more the negative people are going to hate you.

"Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." 2 Timothy 3:12

How do you respond to intimidation?

1. Recognize the source

"We are not fighting against human beings, but against wicked spiritual forces." Ephesians 6:12

"Satan is the accuser of the brethren." Revelation 12:10

Principle: You will serve whom you fear.

"God has not given you a spirit of fear (or timidity) but of power and of love and of self-discipline." 2 Timothy 1:7

"Fear of man is a snare." Proverbs 29:25

"Greater is he who is in you than he who lives in the world." 1 John 4:4

2. Refuse to retaliate

"If someone does evil to you, don't pay him back with evil....never take revenge...let God's wrath do it." Romans 12:17, 19

Three kinds of verbal intimidation: insults, persecution and mistreatment.

Three tactics of intimidation: ridicule, resistance, rumor.

3. Respond positively and directly

"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." Romans 12:21

"Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you." Matthew 5:44

4. Refuse to argue

"I was _____, but now I _____"

5. Rejoice over it

"If you are insulted because of Christ, you are blessed....for God's spirit rests on you." 1 Peter 4:14

"The apostles were full of joy that God considered them worthy to suffer disgrace for Jesus name." Acts 5:41

"These troubles won't last very long. Yet this short time of distress will result in God's richest blessing upon us forever and ever!" 2 Corinthians 4:17

6. Remember your reward

"Since we are God's children, if we share Christ's suffering, we will also share in His glory." Romans 8:17

"Whatever you give up for the Lord's sake here in the earth, He will restore a hundred fold in eternity." Matthew 19:29

7. Remain faithful and bold

"So those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good." 1 Peter 4:19